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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 691
By Kisber

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Laurice Lanier on her considerable accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those young people who, through their extraordinary talents and steadfast efforts, have distinguished themselves as citizens of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Laurice Lanier is most assuredly one such outstanding young woman who has been selected to sing in Baz Luhrmann's opera, *La Boheme*, on tour and on Broadway; and

WHEREAS, a native of Jackson and a 1997 graduate of South Side High School, Laurice Lanier is a Senior at The Juilliard School in New York; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lanier was accepted into the prestigious Juilliard School in 1997 and was one of only seven worldwide who were admitted that year; she is currently completing a five-year program to achieve her Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance and preparing for her Senior recital, which will be held in April; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished student at The Juilliard School, she was chosen to sing the title role, *Dido*, and was selected to train under Marilyn Horne with The Music Academy of the

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West; she was also asked to participate in the November 2001 Spiritual Music Concert in Rio, Sao Paulo, and Brasilia in Brazil; and

WHEREAS, Laurice Lanier has participated in many exemplary musical and theatrical programs in Tennessee, including the Governor's School for the Arts in 1995, the All-West Tennessee Honor Choir for four years, and the All-State Honor Choir for four years; she has performed with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra and at the Christmas Gala for Dianne Odell; she opened the 2002 Session of the Tennessee General Assembly with a stunning performance of *America the Beautiful*; and

WHEREAS, this accomplished and talented young woman was awarded Miss Bronze West Tennessee in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Laurice Lanier's many achievements have been a great source of pride for her parents, Reverend Lawrence and Emma Lanier; her aunts; her uncles; the First United Methodist Church in Jackson; South Side High School; her community; and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in acknowledgment of Ms. Lanier's impressive accomplishment, Governor Don Sundquist has declared, "We're proud of Laurice and congratulate her and her family for her achievement. Our state has a rich and diverse musical history and Laurice is a fine example of the world-class talent that is born here in Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lanier is most grateful for the support of her community who, in efforts led by Libby Murphy, have assisted her through tough financial times and have helped her to achieve her dreams; and

WHEREAS, on March 16 at the Ned R. McWherter West Tennessee Regional Arts Center, she will star in *The Homecoming*, a fundraising concert featuring patriotic and spiritual music, which will be followed by the *Diva Reception*; when her career is established, Laurice Lanier plans on changing the annual concert's focus to other young students who are trying to launch a career in the performing arts; and

WHEREAS, Laurice Lanier begins rehearsals for *La Boheme* in August, and when the opera opens, she will perform eight shows a week; with her vast musical and theatrical ability and her outstanding work ethic, she is sure to be a great success; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lanier epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; her pursuit of excellence in all her endeavors is clearly deserving of the respect and admiration of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Laurice Lanier on her selection for the Broadway show, *La Boheme*, commend her hard work, diligence, and persistence, applaud her considerable talent, and extend to her our heartfelt best wishes for every continued success and happiness with the opera *La Boheme* and in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.